



# the Atrium

News from inside the James E. Walker Library for the campus  
of Middle Tennessee State University



## Dean's Message

### What kind of library do you want?

**The purpose of the Atrium is to bring you news of the library—but it really is about what the library is doing for you.**

In this issue alone, the table of contents points to the introduction of new services, research results, and invitations to provide feedback. From time to time, it is important that I not only reflect on the meaning of the term “library” but also express this to our community stakeholders.

The importance of “library as place” is still very strong among students and faculty because of the library’s association with the learning and research mission of the institution. The library building expresses in a physical way the academic mission of the University; it is iconic of the whole of the academic enterprise. Library spaces have evolved to new uses as our need for collections space is steadily being reduced and the demand for collaborative learning spaces has increased. The library isn’t just a type of office building. The spaces are designed for specific purposes, operations are designed as a system, and services are delivered with a sense of mission and ethical standards.

Librarianship is a profession with an academic discipline, ethics, and mission.

The library code of ethics is centered around intellectual freedom specifically in opposition to censorship, support of the right to confidentiality in the seeking of information, and balanced and unbiased collections. Methodologies are technologically sophisticated with services designed to meet the scale of the university as well as the individual. Libraries live the sentiment of “acting locally but thinking globally.” The local campus in which they are located is the chief beneficiary of collection building, spaces, and services, but libraries are drawing from and contributing to global networks daily. Our work is tightly tied to the two-way communication of scholarly works. We bring materials to your fingertips to use in curriculum and research, and we publish or “push out” unique publications of the institution to the world through our digitization processes. This doesn’t happen by accident, as the articles in this issue on the Institutional Repository and articles in the new *JEWL* magazine attest.

As you read this issue, read it with the perspective that the library seeks to advance the academic mission of the University. What kind of library do you want? The article on the institutional repository is the latest method we have of publishing scholarly works into the digital mainstream. The article on the impact of library instruction is but one way in which we measure usage and assess the effectiveness of our work in assisting a student to become successful. Library instruction enables our students to become “information literate” so they know how to best find, use, and critically apply information as scholars. The article on the “purging” of the library collection of bound periodicals now accessible in electronic formats is the next iteration of this library’s change. As the article states, this isn’t an all or nothing proposition. The change must be with agreement of the campus community as our key stakeholder. **When we ask for feedback, it isn’t about how we are doing but asking does this work for you?**

### Feedback Needed: Purge of Bound Periodicals – Mid-February Deadline

Walker Library is considering the elimination of over 800 periodical titles that were received in paper form then bound together. These titles are now also accessible in electronic format as part of our license agreements with JSTOR. A complete list of the title and our holdings can be found at <http://xoxoxo.library.mtsu.edu>. All of the titles are shelved on the first floor of Walker Library.

The short time line is in response to a request by the Provost and Interim Vice Provost Mike Boyle to start removing the collection by March so that space might be renovated for a tutoring center under the direction of VP Boyle.

The campus community is invited to comment on this project through a feedback form on the library home page or through the librarian for your college. Feedback is needed by mid-February. Options on the feedback forums include:

- Request additional information in public meeting forums
- Request a specific title exception to the purge which would keep the paper form in Walker Library, or
- Indication of your complete agreement in the project.

### Quest for Success. In Fall 2013...

- More than 560,000 people used the library’s website, of which about 200,000 were from off campus.
- 50,000 books, media, laptops, and equipment were checked out.
- More than 25,000 people were assisted with research, media projects and technology at the library help desks.
- 188 library research classes were taught.
- Over 4.5 million pages were printed on library printers.
- Almost 500,000 people visited the library last year. That’s over 30,000 per week!!!
- Group study, presentation practice, and student meeting rooms were checked out over 7,000 times!!!

## IN THIS EDITION...

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# Walker Library Launches MTSU's First Institutional Repository

by Larry Hansard, Integrated Systems Librarian



The Walker Library is pleased to announce the launch of a digital institutional repository for Middle Tennessee State University. With the development of an IR, Walker Library enables the dissemination and discoverability of MTSU's scholarly output, history, and research via the internet.

Academic libraries have been creating repositories and publishing institutional information for about a decade to coincide with the growth of electronic formats for publication. The institutional repository will allow Walker Library to collect and store items in electronic format instead of print or microfilm. An IR will enable fast, easy, and real-time access to electronic intellectual and creative materials.

Repositories enable universities to efficiently collect and manage their own scholarly output. The protection of MTSU's cultural patrimony will be enhanced, since preservation copies of items in the repository will be stored off-site to ensure that the physical materials will never be lost. The MTSU repository will increase the visibility of MTSU research through unrestricted online access. The repository will also benefit MTSU faculty by meeting public access rules for data curation and archival requirements mandated by many federal grants. The repository will be indexed by Google and other search engines to maximize discoverability.

Walker has been collaborating with the campus archival centers (Gore Research Center and the Center for Popular Music) in building a common digital production space and planning for our digital collection growth. The institutional repository will allow an additional outlet to make their unique archival collections accessible. Examples of materials to be found in the institutional repository include electronic access to MTSU theses and dissertations, faculty and student research papers and academic newsletters, and other locally produced works.

The MTSU repository is committed to archiving, preserving, and making available the tangible products of the vibrant intellectual culture of MTSU. The promotion of excellence in teaching and research will, of course, be the primary beneficiary of the repository's mission and activities. The repository will also provide the citizens of Tennessee with access to the valuable scholarly and creative output of MTSU.

The MTSU digital repository will be using the DSpace institutional repository open source software. DSpace was originally developed in 2002 by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Hewlett Packard Labs. DSpace is a Java-based application that uses open source software products like Apache Tomcat and PostgreSQL. The DSpace software is supported by a user community from all over the world and is used by over 1400 institutions worldwide. Development of the software is led by a non-profit organization called DuraSpace. The DSpace software supports faceted search and browse functionality using Apache Solr. MIT, Georgia Tech, Vanderbilt, Rice, and Cambridge are a few examples of universities that use DSpace.

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## Library Instruction Helps with Student Success and Retention

by Jason Vance, Information Literacy Librarian



The Walker Library's User Services librarians are dedicated to student success. Each year these reference and instruction librarians teach students how to navigate the library's print and electronic collections to find sources in support of their research and writing through formal research lectures and workshops. During the 2012–2013 academic year, 354 MTSU classes received library instruction from a faculty librarian. These sessions ranged from first year English composition to graduate chemistry thesis classes.

In a recent study, MTSU librarians Jason Vance and Dr. Rachel Kirk worked with Dr. Justin Gardner (MTSU's Department of

Agribusiness) to quantify the effectiveness of library instruction. Specifically, they analyzed MTSU freshman students' academic and demographic data to look for correlations between formalized library instruction and students' grade point averages (GPA) and academic retention. Their study found that there is a positive and statistically significant correlation between library instruction and students' GPAs. Students who were enrolled in classes that received library instruction had an average +0.09 increase in their GPA compared to their counterparts who had no library instruction.

Vance, Kirk, and Gardner presented the findings of their study at the national Library Assessment Conference in Baltimore, Md., and the Tennessee Association on Student Success and Retention Conference and published their research in the online journal *Communications in Information Literacy*.

Here on campus, MTSU faculty continue to see the impact library instruction has on their students' academic work. The English Department has formalized its relationship with library

instruction for all of its research and argumentative writing classes so that students learn the basics of finding, reading, and citing quality information sources in their academic writing. The Department of Communication has partnered with the library on its fundamentals of communication public speaking courses to help students find and integrate authoritative current events sources into their informative and persuasive speeches.

Librarians teach MTSU students a variety of skills—finding demographic market research, ebooks, and primary historical documents; distinguishing between scholarly and popular literature, primary and secondary research, and biased versus unbiased information; and how to evaluate online and print information sources. The library continues to expand its outreach to new classes every semester. If you would like to schedule a library instruction session for your class, you may visit the library's website ([http://library.mtsu.edu/reference/inst\\_req.php](http://library.mtsu.edu/reference/inst_req.php)) or contact Gwen Williams at 615-904-8530.

# Approval Plan—A Way of Automating Acquisitions!

by Dr. David Nelson, Department Head, Collection Development and Management



This year we have made a significant change to our collection development process. We have shifted from a manual title-by-title selection process to an approval plan. A library approval plan is an agreement between the library and our book vendor to simply ship books and e-books to us as they are published in the subject areas that are of interest to the students and faculty of MTSU. The library creates a MTSU descriptive profile of what subjects are of interest.

The profile is refined by deciding what other nonsubject parameters should be

included or excluded. Some examples of nonsubject parameters are publisher, language, audience (i.e., general, graduate level, professional), and format (i.e., textbook, hymnbook). By considering all of these parameters (subject and nonsubject) we determine what should be automatically shipped to our library to create a foundation collection. Each week, the vendor uses this profile to select and send the newest publications from thousands of publishers to the library without the need for the library to identify and issue orders for each title. This allows the library to purchase the most up-to-date material to support our programs. Because our profile indicates our interest in subjects we essentially create “prepublication orders” which enable us to obtain the titles we need from academic publishers that produce small print runs.

The approval plan is not a replacement for collection development. It must be well designed and well funded to provide a basis for a collection to support the needs of the MTSU community. The librarian liaisons monitor this plan and continually

seek ways to improve the plan based on the curricular and research needs of each department and program on campus. They are also constantly seeking journals and other electronic resources to meet the needs of their departments. As we refine this plan during the spring semester, we will be soliciting feedback from faculty. We also welcome any and all requests for new material to be added to the collection. Please contact the librarian liaison for your area if you have any concerns about the collection or ideas to improve it. If you are unsure of who your liaison is, please contact David Nelson, the Head of Collection Development and Management. You can also request items by using the forms located on the Library Forms page to request books and trials to electronic resources (<http://library.mtsu.edu/forms.php>).

We are excited about this new phase of collection development and building collection development criteria that best serve the needs of the MTSU community.

## Launch of *JEWL* Magazine

In the Fall of 2013 the Walker Library launched a magazine called the *JEWL*, The Magazine of the James E. Walker Library. You can see the full electronic version at [www.library.mtsu.edu/news](http://www.library.mtsu.edu/news).

Here is an excerpt from one of the stories in the magazine:



In modern times, in a world filled with Web-based media, social networking and cloud computing, that fact remains true. But today, libraries serve a world extending far beyond bricks and mortar, including anyone with an interest in a particular topic and access to an Internet connection.

MTSU's Walker Library is a sterling example of a modern library that already offers electronic versions of many or most of its periodicals, books and collections.

As second-year library dean Bonnie Allen points out, “We have rows and rows of books on shelves, but that is only about half of our entire collection—the other half is accessed through a keyboard or your smart phone.” Significantly, though, that pathway to information isn't limited exclusively to the library's standard collections. Libraries now acquire collections in electronic formats but are also transforming unique collections into

digital collections. Beyond digitizing its own materials, Walker Library has also partnered with other academic units to make some of the University's priceless intellectual holdings available electronically. In doing so, Walker Library has evolved into a true hub for humanities research in a digital age. Walker Library is less a warehouse for books and more of what Allen describes as a “portal to a world of information.”



## James E. Walker Library

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Phone: 615-898-2772  
E-mail: [kkeene@mtsu.edu](mailto:kkeene@mtsu.edu)  
<http://library.mtsu.edu>

2-40100



**“My favorite thing about the James E. Walker Library is that it’s a quiet and resourceful place to study whenever I want or need it.”** - Michael Moore, Senior, CBAS.

### Tutoring Coming To Walker Library

In November 2013 Interim Vice Provost Mike Boyle was assigned leadership for a central tutoring service in Walker Library. He is now responsible for the budgeting, scheduling, marketing, and direction of the tutoring center. Temporary locations for tutoring are rooms 262 and 462 of Walker Library with an intention to renovate first floor stack space of Walker for a permanent location. (See article on the purge of bound periodicals.) No additional details were available at the time of publication of *The Atrium*.

### Staff News in Walker Library



Mayo Taylor, Reference Librarian, is retiring this spring. Mayo has been with MTSU for more than 20 years. Before coming to Walker Library she was with the Center for Popular Music and the Art Library here on campus.



Bill Black, Administrative Services Librarian, retired last fall. Bill worked in the library for 17 years. He was awarded Faculty Emeritus status during SU13 commencement.

Nicole Brunas joined the Walker Library in January 2014 as a Safety Inspector at the Library Service Desk.

## Spring Library Events

**Civil War Exhibit:** Jan. 14–Feb. 14

**Stephen Wade Banjo Performance:** March 19

**Scholars Week 2014 Poster Winners:** March 24–30

**MTSU Debate Club Exhibit:** March 31–April 13

**Alumni Spring Weekend:** April 10–13

**6th Annual Art Installation Exhibit:** April 18–30

**Check [mtsu.libcal.com/events](http://mtsu.libcal.com/events) for more info.**

## Advancement Corner

By donating to the Walker Library you support every student on campus. Supporting the library funds technology upgrades, collections (books, journals, e-books, databases), space upgrades, and expert help.

The library accepts monetary donations and gifts of books.

To donate online visit: [www.mtsu.edu/supportlibrary](http://www.mtsu.edu/supportlibrary)

Donate by mail:

**Walker Library, MTSU Box 13**

**Murfreesboro, TN 37132**

*(Make checks payable to the MTSU Foundation—Walker Library.)*

**Need more info?**

Visit [library.mtsu.edu](http://library.mtsu.edu) or contact Kristen at 615-898-5376 by email [kristen.keene@mtsu.edu](mailto:kristen.keene@mtsu.edu).